



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 9 2012

The Honorable Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor
State of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

This is an additional response to your letters of April 19, and September 2, 2011, requesting disaster designations for North Carolina counties due to two separate weather events that occurred in 2011.

On June 24, 2011, I notified you that there was not sufficient information to make an accurate determination of production losses for the North Carolina counties affected by the tornadoes that occurred on April 16, 2011. As a result, the decision to designate those counties as primary natural disaster areas was deferred.

In addition, on November 9, 2011, I notified you that the decision to designate counties affected by Hurricane Irene also was deferred.

The Department of Agriculture has now reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports for both disasters and has determined that there were sufficient production losses in 35 North Carolina counties to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating 35 North Carolina counties as primary natural disaster areas, in two separate disaster designations, as follows:

Designation Number 1: Tornadoes that occurred on April 16, 2011:

Primary counties:

Cumberland Johnston

Contiguous disaster counties: (In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act):

Bladen	Hoke	Nash	Sampson	Wayne
Harnett	Moore	Robeson	Wake	Wilson

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In addition to Cumberland and Johnston Counties, Bertie, Bladen, Craven, Currituck, Greene, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Lee, Onslow, Pitt, Robeson, Sampson, Wake, and Wilson Counties, North Carolina, sustained losses from tornadoes that occurred on April 16, 2011. However, none of those counties sustained a 30-percent or greater crop production loss in a single farming enterprise due to the disaster. As a result, I am unable to approve your request for the designation of those 16 counties as primary natural disaster areas.

Bladen, Harnett, Hoke, Sampson, Wake, and Wilson Counties, however, will be eligible for Farm Service Assistance (FSA) loan assistance since they are named as contiguous counties for this disaster, as indicated above.

Designation Number 2: Hurricane Irene that occurred from August 26 through August 30, 2011:

Primary counties:

Beaufort	Currituck	Halifax	Nash	Pender	Wake
Bertie	Dare	Hyde	New Hanover	Pitt	Warren
Camden	Duplin	Johnston	Northampton	Sampson	Washington
Carteret	Edgecombe	Jones	Onslow	Tyrrell	Wayne
Columbus	Franklin	Lenoir	Pamlico	Vance	Wilson
Craven	Greene	Martin	Pasquotank		

Contiguous disaster counties: (In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act):

Bladen	Chatham	Durham	Granville	Hertford	Robeson
Brunswick	Cumberland	Gates	Harnett	Perquimans	

In addition to the 34 counties designated as primary counties, Bladen, Brunswick, Chowan, Cumberland, Gates, Harnett, Hertford, Perquimans, and Robeson Counties, North Carolina, sustained losses from Hurricane Irene that occurred in August 2011. None of those counties, however, sustained a 30-percent or greater crop production loss in a single farming enterprise due to the disaster. Therefore, I am unable to approve your request for the designation of those nine counties as primary natural disaster areas.

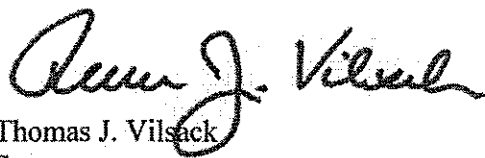
All of those counties, except Chowan County, will be eligible for FSA loan assistance since they are named as contiguous counties for this disaster, as indicated above.

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A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses, security available, and repayment ability. SURE Program applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in 2012, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tom J. Vilsack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary